

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

25X1

COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 3 June 1955 25X1

SUBJECT Shortage of Borax

NO. OF PAGES 2

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produce components for telecommunications technology, specifically, electrolytic condensers. Moreover, boric acid is needed by those enterprises which produce bulbs for the lamp and tube industry. In a report of the Main Administration for Radio and Telecommunications Technology (HV RFT) made to the Ministry for Machine Construction and dated 6 April 1955, it was stated that the boric acid supply situation would cause disruption of production in the enterprises affiliated with the Administration by 15 April 1955 if the situation did not improve.

2. Enterprises affiliated with two Ministries are affected by the shortage of boric acid. The following table lists these enterprises and their requirements of boric acid for the second quarter of 1955:

a. Ministry for Machine Construction

- | | |
|---|----------|
| (1) VEB Schott und Genossen, Jena | 48 tons |
| (2) VEB Kondensatorenwerk Freiberg | 11 tons |
| (3) VEB Kondensatorenwerk Gera | 7.2 tons |
| (4) Other unspecified enterprises under this Ministry | 80 tons |

b. Ministry for Light Industry

VEB Spezialglaswerk "Einheit", Weisswasser 11 tons

3. The HV RFT report stated that supplies of boric acid in all DHZ stores and in the State Reserve were completely exhausted and that supplies in the individual enterprises would also be completely exhausted in

~~less than two weeks (by 20 April 1955).~~

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4. In the past, boric acid has been produced from borax by two East German enterprises: VEB Chemiewerke Greiz-Doehrlau and the private firm of M. P. Vogel, Glauchau.

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[redacted] borax has been imported in the past from "capitalist countries" by illegal means, since borax is on the Western embargo list. [redacted]

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[redacted] East German firms producing boric acid from borax had to discontinue their boric acid production in early March 1955.

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5. In view of the situation described, the head of the State Commission for Material Procurement, Kirsten (fnu), made a report in early April 1955 on the situation to Minister President Otto Grotewohl. Subsequently, Grotewohl issued a special order to the Ministry for Foreign and Domestic Trade to procure "any available amount of borax" from abroad, regardless of expense, in order to remove this threat from East German industry.

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7. It is also known that Grotewohl reported the situation to the Soviet authorities with [redacted] plan for help. As far as is known, immediate help was not [redacted].

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produce components for telecommunications technology, specifically, electrolytic condensers. This enterprise is located in the town of...
 of the Main Administration of Radio and Telecommunications Technology (HV RFT) made to the Ministry for Machine Construction in April 1955, in which it stated that the enterprises affiliated with this Main Administration by 15 April 1955 if the situation did not improve.

2. Enterprises in the two Ministries are affected by the shortage of boric acid. The following table lists these enterprises and their requirements of boric acid for the second quarter of 1955:

a. Ministry for Machine Construction

- | | |
|---|----------|
| (1) VEB Schott und Genossen, Jena | 48 tons |
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| (4) Other unspecified enterprises under this Ministry | 80 tons |

b. Ministry for Light Industry

VEB Spezialglaswerk "Einheit", Weisswasser 11 tons

3. The HV RFT report stated that supplies of boric acid in all DHZ stores and in the State Reserve were completely exhausted and that supplies in the individual enterprises would also be completely exhausted in by 20 April 1955.

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